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SRI ALEXANDER GNANAMUTTU :—" May I know the number of members of the Mudaliar community who are gazetted officers in the State of Madras? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I am afraid, no hon. Member has been good or bad enough to raise this question and Government have not thought it fit to analyse all these."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know whether there is such a community as Mudaliar community? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not know the respective names and connotations of the various communities and sub-communities."

SRI V. V. RAMASWAMI :—" முற்பட்டவர், பிற்பட்டவர் என்ற பேதம் அமைவது ஜாதியின் அடிப்படையிலா அல்லது அது பொருளாதார அடிப்படையில் அமைய வேண்டுமென்று அரசாங்கம் கருதுகிறதா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" முதலாவதாக பிற்பட்டவர்கள் என்று நிர்ணயிப்பது பொருளாதார அடிப்படையில் தான். அதுதான் முக்கியமானது. படிப்பு விஷயம் இரண்டாவதாக அமையும். படிப்பைக் கொண்டு உத்தியோக விஷயம் அமையும். ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட இனத்தவர்களில் பெரும்பாலோர் பிற்போக்கான நிலைமையில் இருந்தால் ஜாதியின் அடிப்படையிலும் அதை நிர்ணயிக்க வேண்டி இருக்கிறது."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" On a point of order, Sir. Is it in order that all the questions are answered by the sole Minister in the House, the Hon. Mr. Bhaktavatsalam? "

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" If the Hon. the Leader of the House takes the responsibility, he can answer."

(Question No. 302 is postponed to tomorrow.)

Number of Block Development Officers in the State.

* 303 *Q.*—SRI ALEXANDER GNANAMUTTU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the post of Block Development Officer is a gazetted one ;

(*b*) the total number of Block Development Officers in the State who are now functioning ;

(*c*) how many of them have been recruited direct and how many by transfer ; and

(*d*) from which departments the transferees have been selected?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Thirty-two posts of Block Development Officers are gazetted and ten posts are non-gazetted.

" (*b*) 42.

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" (c) No one was recruited direct. Twenty-nine were recruited by transfer, ten by absorption of the Rural Welfare Officers employed under the Rural Welfare Scheme which was merged with the National Extension Service Scheme, and three by promotion of Social Education Organizers.

" (d) Transferees have been taken from the Revenue, Agriculture, Co-operation, Statistics, Registration, Local Administration, Education and Civil Supplies departments."

SRI ALEXANDER GNANAMUTTU :—" May I know the special qualifications of these Block Development Officers? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Officers serving in the various departments of the Government have been selected. They were tried and those who were found to possess the necessary aptitude for this kind of job, which is of a new type, have been continued. Those who were not found fit were reverted to their parent departments. When officers are found fit for such appointment, they are given further short training and are appointed."

SRI ALEXANDER GNANAMUTTU :—" May I know whether these Block Development Officers are transferred from one block to another? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir. Sometimes they are transferred."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know whether the scheme of ordering Revenue Divisional Officers to be in charge of the duties of Block Development Officers has not been given effect to, and if it has been given effect to, whether it is proposed to be extended throughout the State? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government have under consideration the scheme of making Revenue Divisional Officers responsible for Block Development work. In fact, in the Tanjore district—a National Extension area—in the four taluks of Sirkali, Mayuram, Papanasam and Kumbakonam, Revenue Divisional Officers have been put in charge of this work."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" May I enquire whether in these appointments there is not great scope for patronage and whether the Government do not take full advantage of it? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition may imagine all kinds of things. But I may tell him that there is no question of patronage here. In the case of several of these officers, they were already gazetted officers and drawing higher pay. On their transfer to these posts, they are getting some allowance."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" Have not *ad hoc* rules been framed for these posts? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Rules have not been framed because we have not yet finalised the frame-work of the scheme. I may also add that sometimes when we post officers from various departments for this work, they are very unwilling to go and join these posts. They are not so attractive as their normal charge."

SRI ALEXANDER GNANAMUTTU :—" Has any retired Government servant been appointed as Block Development Officer? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not think any retired Government servant has been appointed."

Number of handloom exporters in South Arcot district.

* 304 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of handloom exporters in South Arcot district;

(*b*) the quota fixed for each of these exporters; and

(*c*) the basis on which the quota is fixed?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Statistics relating to the number of handloom exporters in the South Arcot district are not available with the Government.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Any person can export handloom goods to permissible destinations without an export licence. Hence, the question of fixing quotas for export does not arise."

Imparting of instruction in the Government colleges in Tamil or the regional language.

* 305 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have addressed the University of Madras to permit the Government colleges in the State to impart instruction in Tamil or in the regional language;

(*b*) if so whether the University authorities have agreed to their suggestion; and

(*c*) what steps, if any, the Government have taken to impart such instruction in Tamil or in the regional language in all the Government colleges from the ensuing academic year and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM (on behalf of the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education) :—" (*a*) No, Sir.